and raids are conducted by it based on intelligence gathered and complaints received from the public.

(d) From 1.11.1991 to 30.11.1991, the Delhi Administration checked 929 fair price shops and 493 kerosene oil depots. F.I. Rs. have been lodged against 40 fair price shop owners and 15 kerosene oil licensees under the Essential Commodities Act. 80 persons were arrested. Departmental action has also been initiated against 349 FPSs and 92 kerosene oil depots.

(e) 91 fair price shop authorisations/ kerosene oil licences were suspended and 23 have been cancelled for irregularities relating to stocks, maintenance of accounts and divereion of ration articles to unauthorised channels.

[*Translation*]

Prices of Essential Commosities

3404. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV:
SHRI SRIKANTA JENA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pubiic Distribution System has failed in controlling the prices of essential commodities;

(b) if so, the Government's view point in this regard; and

(c) if not, the names of the commodities in the case of which the Government have been successful in controlling the prices through Public Distribution System and the percentage thereof?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a), (b) and (c). There has been an increase in the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) of "all commodities" as wall as in the WPI of rice, edible oils and sugar during the current financial year till 23.11.1991. In the case of wheat, the percentage variation in the WPI index was (-)0.5% compared to a significant increase of +26.0% during the corresponding period of last year.

The rise in prices of commodities may be attributed to many factors such as gap in demand and supply,increase in money supply in the economy, increase in prices of inputs to agriculture as well as transport. The Public Distribution System (PDS) is a supplemental effort aimed at ensuring equitable distribution of key essential commodities at pre-determined and reasonable prices. Public Distribution System is on component of the strategy to keep under check the rise in prices. The Government has taken a number of measures to curb money supply in the economy. Under the PDS, allocations of wheat and rice were increased during August to October, 1991. In an effort to increase availability further, open market sales of wheat and rice by Food Corporation of India have been permitted during October-December, 1991. Import of edible oils was resumed in October, 1991. Levy sugar allocations were increased by 5% on an adhoc basis for the period August to December, 1991.

[*English*]

Import of Pamolein Oil

3405. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are spending a huge amount for importing pamolein oil from Malaysia and other countries;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have decided to produce Pamolein Oil in India;

(c) if so, whether any steps in this regard have been considered; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). One project each for production of palm oil has been established in Kerala and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. About 5.75 lakh hectares of land in the country have been identified as suitable for palm cultivation. Possibility for exploring palm cultivation have already started in the identified areas. A number of schemes were sanctioned to take up oil palm cultivation during 8th Plan period, namely, setting up to nurseries and frontline demonstration and processing in Karnataka, Oil Palm Seed Garden in Andhra Pradesh, expansion of the capacity of the seed germination at CPCRI, Palode.

SSI Producing Paraffin Wax

3406. KUMARI DIPIKA CHIKHLIA:
SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHOUHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "paraffin was SSIs likely turn sick" appearing in the Economic Times of September 27, 1991;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken to safeguard the interests of small scale industries producing paraffin wax out of slack wax?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

Saleempur Aromatic Plant

3407. KUMARI DIPIKA CHIKHLIA:
SHRIMATI MAHENDRA KUMARI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the permission of Foreign Investment Board in respect of Saleempur Aromatic Plant has since been granted by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay; and

(d) the time by when permission is likely to be granted?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (d). Matter is under consideration fo the Government.

[*Translation*]

Repair of Approach Roads in West Enclave Pitampura

3408. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the dilapidated condition of the approach roads leading to the newly constructed flats by House Building Societies in the West Enclave of Pitampura on the Outer Ring Road; and